

State of the Nursing Workforce in Missouri

An overview of the issues and opportunities for nursing-related careers

November 2005

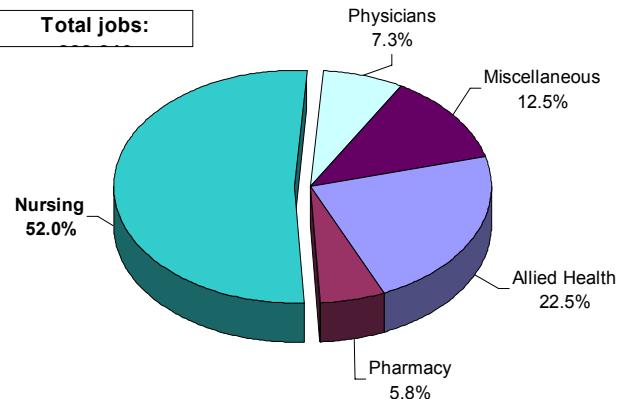
Drivers in the Healthcare Sector

Nursing careers contributed to half of the employment in the overall healthcare industry from 2000 to 2004.

- Over the next decade, the number of registered nurses is projected to grow by more than 22%.
- There will be even more demand for Physician Assistants which is a career projected to increase by almost 40%.

Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004.

Health Care Jobs in Missouri (Nov. 2004)

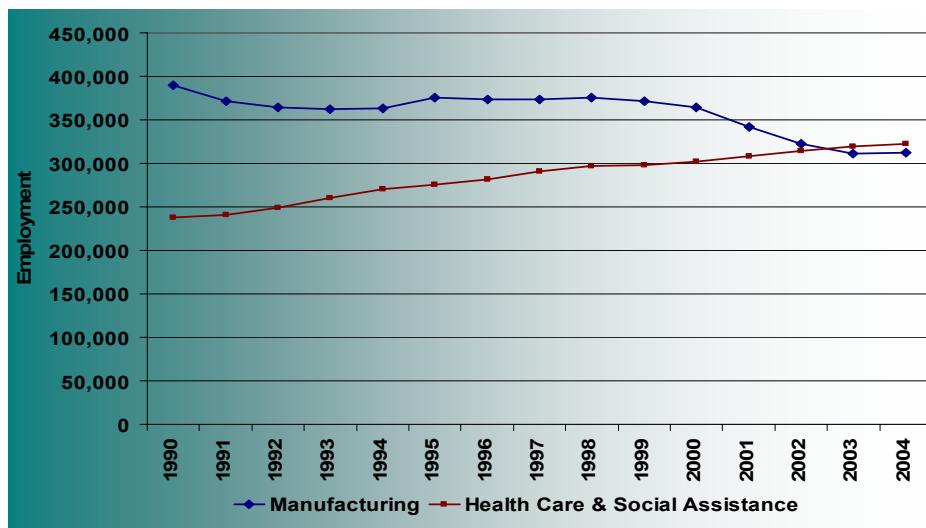


A Dramatic Economic Shift

In the past decade, Missouri shifted from a goods producing to a service producing economy. This trend is evident when comparing historical industry employment in Manufacturing versus Health Care and Social Assistance.

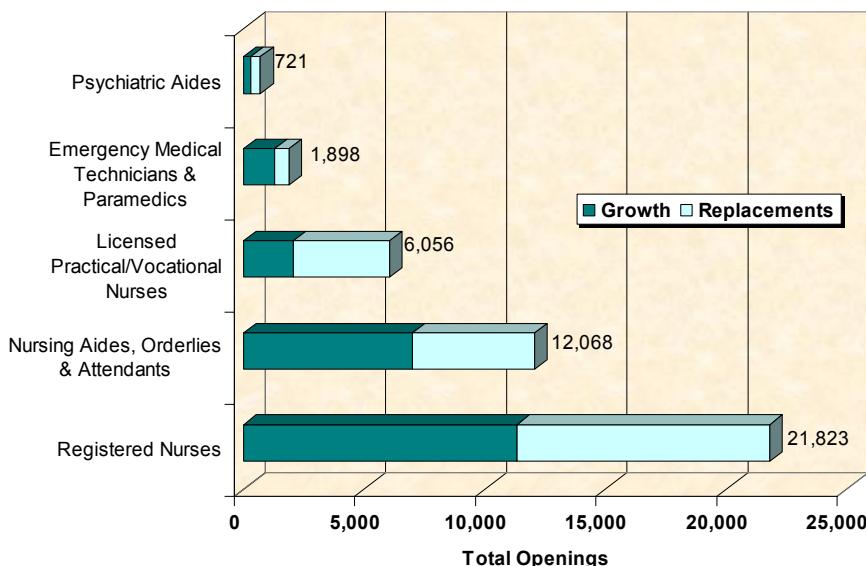
In 1990, Manufacturing accounted for more than 16% of jobs statewide with Social Assistance accounting for only 10% of jobs. After the economic shift, Health Care/Social Assistance added over 84,000 jobs to account for almost 12% of statewide employment in 2004. During that same time period, Manufacturing lost more than 78,000 jobs and now only accounts for 11% of statewide employment.

Manufacturing and Health Care and Social Assistance Employment



Source: MERIC, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages by Industry in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1990-2004.

Projected openings for selected nursing jobs in Missouri, 2002-2012



A Strong Outlook for Nursing Careers

From 2002 to 2012, Nursing-related careers are projected to add over 22,000 jobs - a percent increase of 19% from 2002.

Total job openings over the ten-year period are a combination of both growth and replacement openings. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy. Replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements – not new jobs.

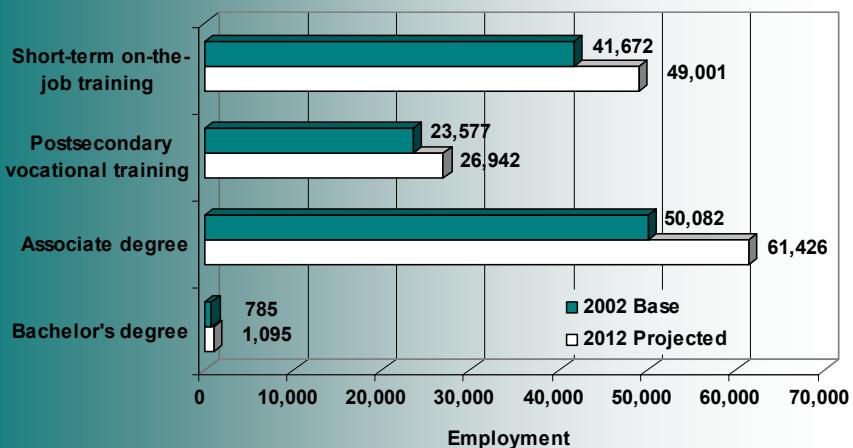
Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2002-2012.

The Future for Nursing Training

Over 35% percent of workers in Nursing-related careers are employed in occupations that typically require short-term (less than 1 month) on-the-job training.

Expected job openings in the Nursing sector will, however, place demands on higher education over the next ten years. In 2012, 44% of Nursing-related workers will need skills typically obtained through an associate's degree.

Future Levels of Educational Attainment for Nursing Careers



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2002-2012, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Wage Rates for the Top 5 Employing Nursing Occupations

Occupation	Nov. 2004 Employment	Hourly Wage		
		25th Percentile	Average	75th Percentile
Registered nurses	52,410	\$19.32	\$23.89	\$27.26
Nursing aides, orderlies, & attendants	39,410	\$7.76	\$9.29	\$10.63
Licensed practical & licensed vocational nurses	16,940	\$12.41	\$14.86	\$16.86
Emergency medical technicians & paramedics	4,160	\$10.26	\$15.02	\$17.57
Psychiatric aides	1,960	\$7.92	\$9.35	\$10.48

Source: MERIC, Occupational Employment Statistics in cooperation with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Registered Nurses, one of the fastest growing occupations in the Nursing sector, is projected to grow by more than 22% over the next decade.

This occupation pays an above average wage of \$23.89 an hour.

Training Providers for Nursing-Related Careers

In Missouri, there are 130 training providers/educational institutions that offer Nursing-related training programs.

Almost 40% of the Nursing-related training providers in the state (51) are located in the two major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

However, there is ample access to other Nursing-related training providers across all parts of rural Missouri.

